

SEP 14 1964

Approved For Release 2000/09/14

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INVESTIGATIONS:**Heat on Hunt**

Haroldson Lafayette Hunt lives in Dallas, has \$700 million, and owns a home which is a replica of Mount Vernon, only much bigger. At 75, he is bulky and slightly stooped, a shy homebody of a farmer-turned-oilman-turned-financier, devoted to goat milk, clip-on bow ties, Deaf Smith County wheat bread, and some of the farthest right-wing causes of his time.

Propagandizing for these through his tax-exempt Life Line Foundation and its predecessor, Facts Forum, has been the main interest of H.L. Hunt's life for the past fifteen years. Occasionally he has stepped out of bounds, as in his distribution of 102,000 copies of an anti-Catholic sermon during the 1960 campaign. But most Americans, though shying from his denunciations of Dwight Eisenhower as "the worst of Presidents," the "heathen nations" in the U.N., and the "socialistic tendencies" of Hoover's Administration, might feel he was within his rights to sound off—except for the fact that the government, by allowing him to take income-tax deductions on the undisclosed millions he has sunk into Life Line, is in effect footing part of the bill.

This is certainly the opinion of sulphurous Wright Patman, 71, chairman of a House Small Business subcommittee. Last week Patman challenged Internal Revenue Service officials for not revoking Life Line's tax-exempt status, and got IRS assurances that it had under "very active" investigation two dozen (unnamed) foundations that use mass news media to advance various causes.

The committee brought out the unpublicized fact that eighteen months ago the Baltimore district of the IRS recommended revocation of Life Line's tax-exempt status, and that the recommendation had been buried until now. It also charged that \$273,691 donated for subscriptions to Facts Forum News between 1954 and 1956 had disappeared, with the foundation unable to give the number of subscriptions purchased by each donor or the addresses to which they were sent. Among the contributors were Hunt himself, the Hunt Oil Co., Sears, Roebuck and Co., and Standard Oil of Indiana.

'Propaganda Peddling': Glaring down from his high mahogany bench at acting IRS commissioner Bertrand Harding, an Eisenhower appointee, Patman said: "It has long been apparent to me that you people, who are supposed to be protecting the public interest, are engaged in an unusual effort as apologists and advocates for the large foundations. For some reason, a number of IRS and Treasury officials feel compelled to cover up the propaganda peddling of the elite bureaucrats of the large foundations, their gravy trains, and their inefficiencies."

Harding's response was not lionlike. "Chairman, sir," he said, "we are not exceedingly proud of our record to the degree with which we have made examinations of tax-exempt foundations. I accept criticism for the past, but we have expanded our examination of these organizations since 1960. IRS, however, cannot plead guilty of failure to support FTC, CAB, and SEC regulations. Our role is not that of a general policeman."

'Secret Conduit': Earlier in the week, the committee released a different kind of boomer. Another tax-exempt foundation, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, had acted as a "secret conduit" for transmission of \$395,000 of alleged CIA money to an organization identified with anti-Communist activities in Europe and Latin America. Objections came on two counts: such use of foundation grants would bring American scholars and scientists in foreign countries under suspicion; and CIA should not have used the Kaplan Fund because it is under investigation for free-wheeling business maneuvers. However, after a single session of testimony, Patman met with representatives of the CIA and then announced: "The CIA does not belong in this foundation investigation."

But Patman was sure Life Line still did. In Dallas, H.L. Hunt insisted righteously it was an educational and patriotic undertaking. "An attack is being made," he cried, "on the right of free speech and comment." But Patman already had an answer on record: "If an old slouch like Hunt really wants to educate the people, he's got lots of money to do it, without putting \$27.5 million which is tax-exempt aside for the Life Line Foundation."